

Occidental Chemical Corporation Superfund Site Lower Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

— Summary of ESD Open House and Q&A—

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Region 3

May 2008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held an Open House on April 16, 2008 to discuss an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Occidental Chemical Site, Operable Unit-2. An ESD is a document describing changes made to a Record of Decision (ROD) selected remedy. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide a brief summary of the Open House discussion and share noted comments, questions and answers with the community.

Open House Summary...

EPA's April 16, 2008 Open House for the Occidental Chemical Site ESD was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Pottsgrove Middle School. The presentation agenda included:

- Brief Site background / history
- Description of Operable Units
 - ▶OU-1: contaminated groundwater remedy = ongoing pump and treat system
 - ▶OU-2: four earthen lagoons contaminated with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sludge (Subject of ESD)
- Details of the ESD and rationale
 - ▶ESD remedy = excavation and off-site removal, then backfilling, re-grading and re-vegetation of earthen lagoons
 - ▶Updated cleanup standards to correspond with current laws
- Work Schedule
 - OU-2 cleanup completion is estimated to be by the end of Autumn 2008
- Q&As
 - The majority of time was dedicated to questions and answers regarding the ESD

Comments and Q & A...

Q. Why isn't there a public comment period for the ESD?

A. Throughout the Superfund process, there are several points where EPA solicits community input through a public comment period. An ESD is not one of those points. Oftentimes, EPA will offer a public comment period even if it is not required, however, this did not occur in this instance. Even though there is not an official public comment period associated with the ESD, comments from the community are welcomed, and will be considered in relation to the upcoming remedial

work. Anyone with a comment or question can email, or call EPA personnel. Contact information is listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Note: We appreciate comments regarding the lack of a public comment period for the ESD, and will consider offering a more formal process in the future.

Q. Will there be restrictions placed on the use of the land? (Will there be Institutional Controls put in place?)

A. Once finished, the remedy for OU-2 (the four earthen lagoons) will meet residential property cleanup standards and Institutional Controls will not be required. The OU-1 (groundwater) cleanup remedy is a much longer process that will require long-term monitoring. Any reuse of the land will be limited in the sense that it must not interfere with the ongoing groundwater treatment system.

Q. Why is the Site segmented into different sections with different regulatory authorities?

A. The entire Occidental property is about 257 acres, containing four earthen lagoons, two landfills, parking lots, buildings and other structures. The EPA Superfund Site consists of the four earthen lagoons and a subsurface contaminated groundwater plume. The two landfills were once active and subject to state inspections conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (now known as the Department of Environmental Protection, or PADEP). Both landfills have since been closed and PADEP continues to oversee the monitoring program. EPA is collaborating with PADEP so that any overlapping issues regarding the Site are addressed.

Q. *Why isn't dioxin included as one of the contaminants of concern?*

A. EPA conducted dioxin sampling in 2003. Results showed some dioxin, but at levels below cleanup goal levels, which meant no further action was required.

Note: The ESD requires excavation of the PVC sludge in the earthen lagoons, which will remove contaminants of concern, as well as the dioxin mentioned above.

Comment: Answers were too general

A. Most of the Open House agenda was dedicated to the Q&A session. It is our aim to provide full and comprehensive answers to all questions we received. After the Q&A session, representatives from EPA and PADEP were available for one-on-one discussions with anyone who may have had additional questions or wanted something explained in further detail.

Note: If anyone is interested in additional

information, please visit the website or contact EPA personnel. Contact information is listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Comment: No notice was provided to local media.

A. An announcement regarding the ESD document and Open House was published in the *Pottstown Mercury* newspaper on April 9, 2008. The notice was a quarter-page sized ad placed on page A4. On the same date, EPA mailed a fact sheet providing a summary of the ESD and announcing the Open House to the community. The mailing list for the Site has about 930 addresses, including elected officials and the media. Please contact Trish Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator, if you have suggestions for alternative or additional modes of public notification.

Comment: More graphics are suggested

A. Thank you for the suggestion. EPA will make an effort to provide more visual graphics for future Site-related events.

Contact Information

- ▶ Trish Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5539 or taylor.trish@epa.gov
- ▶ Maria (Angie) Garcia, Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3199 or garcia.maria@epa.gov
- ▶ Tim Gallagher, Remedial Project Manager
(215) 814-3196 or gallagher.timothy@epa.gov



Websites

- ▶ EPA's Occidental Chemical Site
www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm
- ▶ EPA's Administrative Records
www.epa.gov/arweb

Mail to: EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19103



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Attn: Trish Taylor
1650 Arch Street (3HS52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103